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TITLE

POLYPEPTIDE BIOCONJUGATES, METHODS OF MAKING THE BIOCONJUGATES AND ASSAYS EMPLOYING THE BIOCONJUGATES

This application is related to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/062,710, filed February 5, 2002. This application is also related to provisional U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 60/475,486, filed June 4, 2003 and provisional U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 60/524,614, filed November 25, 2003. Each of the aforementioned applications is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

BACKGROUND

Technical Field

The present application relates generally to bioconjugates of polypeptides and, in particular, to: bioconjugates of polypeptides and polysaccharides; methods of making the bioconjugates; and methods of using the bioconjugates in assays.

15 **Background of the Technology**

Antibodies are proteins generated by animals in response to the invasion of a foreign molecule (*i.e.*, an antigen) into the body. Antibodies are found in blood and tissue fluids and can bind to the antigen when it is encountered. Because antibodies are developed based on the specific three-dimensional structure of an antigen, they are highly specific and will bind only to that structure.

20 In an antigen-down immunoassay, an antigen is coated onto a solid support surface and used to bind antibodies found in a sample. When the sample is added

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